



## **DOWNTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 13**

c/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 530 SOUTH KING STREET ROOM 400 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96813  
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### **MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING APRIL 6, 2006 PAUAHI COMMUNITY CENTER**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Matusow at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Alvin Au, Richard Brawley, Lynne Matusow, Carl Middleton, Dolores Mollring, Karl Rhoads, Tom Smyth, Burton White, Stanford Yuen.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None.

**GUESTS:** Bill Burke (Honolulu Triathlon), Major Randy Macadangdang, Capt. Tom Grossi, Lt. Bernard Martin, Sgt. Albert Somera (HPD), Leinati Matautai (Ohana O Hawaii), Acting Captain Mark Nakagawa (HFD-Central Station), Senator Gordon Trimble, Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Representative Bev Harbin, Kristi Sue Ako (Senator Gordon Trimble's Office), Jon Courage, Rick Murray (Hawaii Pacific University [HPU] Security), Virginia Young, Al Canopin (Councilmember Rod Tam's Office), Ed Korybski (Culture and Arts District), Scott Trusdale, Dean Chu (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

**INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS:** The members introduced themselves at this time.

### **REPORTS AND CONCERNS:**

**HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT** – Acting Captain Nakagawa reported the following:

1. Last month there were 119 total alarms consisting of 6 structure, 1 rubbish and 1 pole fire; 90 medical emergencies, 4 search and rescue, 17 miscellaneous. There were no major or unusual alarms.
2. The safety tip for the month is "Cooking fires are the leading cause of home fires and the second major cause of death among older adults. If you are cooking and must leave the kitchen, even for only a few minutes, turn off the stove. Turn off stoves and appliances promptly when finished and unplug small appliances when not in use. Keep a fire extinguisher (with a minimum rating of 2A 10BC) and learn how to use it. Inspect the fire extinguisher regularly to ensure that it has not expired."

Questions, answers and comments followed:

Opposition was expressed to proposals discussed at previous meetings to limit emergency services' use of sirens at night under certain conditions.

Acting Captain Nakagawa was thanked for attending the meeting.

**HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT** – Sgt. Somera reported statistics for the month of February included 6 robberies, 7 burglaries, 44 unauthorized entry into motor vehicles, 11 auto thefts, 4 aggravated assaults, 32 simple assaults, 146 motor vehicle collisions, 9 DUI, 7 sex assaults, 5 family offenses, 13 drug offenses, 3 graffiti.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Five of the security cameras are not working, a request for repairs has been submitted.
2. White reported his dissatisfaction with the unprofessional way he was treated by an officer at the Chinatown Substation when he went there to request something be done about drug dealing at a corner of Bethel and Pauahi streets. He will pursue the matter further.



3. Bicycle riding on the sidewalks in a commercial area is illegal. All bicycles are required to have a current registration sticker, and lights when riding at night.
4. An increase in graffiti was noted, including the use of stickers. It was acknowledged that this is an ongoing problem and that problem areas such as along freeways, is monitored. Smyth noted removal of stickers is easy using a razor blade if the sticker is on an unpainted metal surface. Once the metal surface is painted, as is done in graffiti wipe out projects, removal becomes more difficult. It was also noted that paint tagging is more common than sticker tagging.
5. Condolences were expressed on the death of former Chief of Police Michael Nakamura. Services next week Wednesday will include a procession from Mililani Mortuary to HPD headquarters.
6. Follow up will be done about an unregistered bicycle chained to a parking meter.

Major Macadangdang introduced himself, Capt. Grossi, Lt. Martin, and Sgt. Somera, and spoke on improving the quality of life in this area for everyone. Apologies were extended for the way White was treated at the Chinatown Substation.

Additional questions, answers and comments followed:

1. An increase in drug dealing problems on Maunakea Street have been observed, and Major Macadangdang reported he will try to bring back newly graduated officers back into this area to help address this problem. Yuen suggested parking marked cars further away from the substation to provide a more visible police presence in this area.
2. Work will be done with the Ft. Street Mall Business District on clarifying the roles of private security and HPD on the mall.
3. In response to a question about a homeless person who seems to be permanently occupying a spot on Ft. Street Mall which is closed at night. Mollring reported the Citizens Patrol found out the person leaves the mall nightly for a spot on Hotel Street. It was noted that HPD works with mall security and that persons should call 911 for emergencies.

Ed Korybski, Culture and Arts District, noted that the private security guards have limited authority, such as physical contact, in dealing with persons in the course of their duties. Rick Murray, HPU Security, provided additional comments on the security guards' guidelines on use of physical restraint when confronting persons.

4. Regarding ticketing of mopeds on Ft. Street Mall and a new law to allow parking of mopeds in bicycle racks, it was noted allowing parking of mopeds in bicycle racks will be permitted in designated areas when signs, which are being prepared, are posted. Installation of additional bike racks was requested.

Major Macadangdang, Capt. Grossi, Lt. Martin and Sgt. Somera were thanked for attending the meeting.

**CITIZENS PATROL** – Mollring reported the patrol has not been making some of its walks due to the recent rains, but did check the Bethel and Pauhi streets corners for drug activity previously noted, but saw none.

**HAWAII PACIFIC UNIVERSITY** –Rick Murray, from Hawaii Pacific University, reported the following:

1. Spring Semester runs January 23 – May 12.
2. HPU will be recognizing three outstanding alumni at the 6th Annual Paul C. T. Loo Distinguished Alumni Awards, April 28, Waialae Country Club.
3. Upcoming events include: a) Raise the Roof benefit concert for Habitat for Humanity, April 15, Events at the Tower, Aloha Tower Marketplace, April 15, 7:00 p.m., b) Intercultural Day, Upper

Fort Street Mall, April 22, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., c) Teaching English as a Second Language Informational Session, April 18, 5:30 p.m., d) Professional Studies Reception, April 18, 6:00 p.m., e) MSN Informational Session, April 19, 12:15 p.m.

Murray was thanked for attending the meeting.

**HONOLULU CULTURE AND ARTS DISTRICT** – Ed Korybski distributed copies of their Gallery Walk, Restaurant and Parking Guide, and thanked the Board for its support of funding for the Hotel Street façade legislation.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

The Chinatown Summit has been rescheduled to June 22, Hawaii Theatre, 8:00 a.m.

Korybski was thanked for his report.

**PUBLIC OFFICIALS:**

**SENATOR GORDON TRIMBLE** – Senator Trimble reported the following:

1. The session is two-thirds complete.
2. A current priority is providing funding for flood relief efforts, which will use some of the budget surplus.
3. Senate Bill 2385 includes provisions for red light cameras, it has passed the Senate, the House Judiciary Committee, and now goes to the full House for consideration.
4. Any budget surplus is what is left after spending on repair and maintenance and other matters.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Questions related to ceded lands should be directed to the Senate Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee, chaired by Senator Hanabusa.
2. Legislation to regulate the use of leaf blowers has passed the Senate twice, but died in the House.

Senator Trimble was thanked for attending the meeting.

**COUNCILMEMBER ROD TAM** – Al Canopin, from Councilmember Tam's Office, distributed the monthly report and highlighted/added the following:

1. The report includes a copy of a letter from Chief of Police Correa responding to questions relating to the homeless in Ala Moana Park.
2. A petition has been received to close Kekaulike Mall from 10:00 p.m. – 6:00 a.m.
3. The City Administration has been requested by Councilmember Tam, to provide details about development of public restroom facilities in the Downtown area.
4. The City Administration has been requested by Councilmember Tam, to provide details about funding provided to non-profit organizations to assist homeless persons.
5. A metal guard rail at Pele Street Mini Park will be removed. Trash accumulates between it and a concrete wall.
6. The Department of Planning and Permitting checked a collapsing building's roof at 1165 Maunakea Street. The walls were found to be intact.

7. The written report also includes the status of several bills and resolutions.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Thanks were expressed for seeing to the inspection of the building at 1165 Maunakea Street.
2. A guest questioned the government's authority in removing persons from Ala Moana Park.

Canopin was thanked for attending the meeting.

**SENATOR SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND** – Senator Chun Oakland reported the following:

1. Some of the priorities this session include: a) public education, including school renovations; b) affordable housing, including funding for repairs to existing units and development of new units.
2. Some legislation of interest includes: a) ID theft, b) funding adult dental services for persons on Medicaid, c) universal health care for children by expanding the Quest program, c) the Governor and OHA are working on State payments for ceded lands of \$17 million for the first year and \$15 million the next year, d) funding for Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to develop more housing, e) flood relief, including for Civil Defense to do statewide checks.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Concern about ID theft was expressed as more and more businesses are requesting customers provide the last four numbers of their social security number.
2. Thanks were expressed for the funding for the Department of Land and Natural Resources to perform dam inspections. Questions were raised about what methodology is used in the inspections.

Smyth noted the City owns Nuuanu Reservoir and the State owns Lake Wilson in Wahiawa and Kailua Dam in Waimanalo. The Ka Loko Dam on Kauai is privately owned by a company that provides water to agricultural customers.

3. Legislation relating to criminalizing the homeless who live in parks, has crossed over to the House.
4. The federal government has the authority to exempt itself from paying certain taxes.

Senator Chun Oakland was thanked for attending the meeting.

**REPRESENTATIVE BEV HARBIN** – Representative Harbin reported the following:

1. Legislation on affordable housing is progressing, with various proposals being discussed.
2. She is working with Representative Kahikina on a meeting on helping get people into affordable housing.
3. Other legislation of interest progressing relates to campaign spending and lobbying reform.
4. She disagrees with the removal of the homeless from Ala Moana Park.
5. Work is being done to address concerns with affordable housing projects such as Kukui Gardens as a number of other projects are facing similar problems with the projects converting out of affordable housing status.

Representative Harbin was thanked for attending the meeting.

**MAYOR'S OFFICE** – Bill Brennan, who represents the Mayor's Office, was unable to attend the meeting. Chair Matusow read a written report from Brennan which included:

1. Regarding broken lights in the Chinatown Gateway Park water feature, repairs have been delayed due to the weather. Completion is expected within the next couple of weeks.
2. A work order has been submitted to install signage that allows mopeds to park at selected bicycle racks in the Downtown area.
3. At Aala Park, all 14 park closure signs read 9:00 p.m. – 6:00 a.m. The skatepark signs should read open 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m., and the needed numbers should now have been added.
4. The hole in the ground next to the play apparatus at Smith – Beretania Park should have been topped off after repair to a broken irrigation pipe.
5. The bus shelter from Nuuanu and Beretania should be moved to Smith and Beretania by month's end.
6. The gutters on the mauka side of Beretania, between Nuuanu and River, will be reconstructed as part of an upcoming street rehabilitation project.
7. There are no plans to install additional benches on Ft. Street Mall.
8. The City inspected the roof on the property bounded by Beretania, Pauahi, Smith and Maunakea streets. The unoccupied two-story building with the collapsed roof appears now to have been secure.
9. The City checked the traffic signal at Beretania and Ft. Street Mall and found it to be operating properly. There are, however, times when the signal may go out of sequence when an emergency vehicle preempts the lights.
10. The City inspected the drop-roll fabric curtain that hangs from a flower shop on Maunakea Street and found that it had the minimum clearance of seven feet over the public sidewalk area. The shop was reminded that it must maintain the seven foot height clearance.
11. The Mayor's Chinatown Summit has been rescheduled to June 22.
12. Plans for a dedication of the Pele Street Mini Park are progressing.

There were no questions for the Mayor's Office.

**GOVERNOR'S OFFICE** – Smyth reported the following:

1. The State is offering low interest loans through the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT), for persons and victims of flood damage from the recent rains. For more information, interested persons can call 211, the Aloha United Way information line; or DBEDT at 586-2570. Possible federal funding will also be available. The City may also have funding available for low income persons.
2. The recent rainy weather can create potentially hazardous mold problems. Mold can be cleaned up by wiping down with a bleach solution, one cup bleach to one gallon of water. Care should be taken when handling moldy items to avoid dispersing mold spores.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. It was suggested the budget surplus be used to assist the homeless.

2. It is unknown what bills the Governor will veto. Most bills passed by the legislature go the Governor for signature after the end of the session. The Governor has 45 days after the end of session to veto a bill.
3. The Governor has proposed \$20 million, \$10 million for repairs to existing units, and \$10 million for development of new units, to help provide housing for the homeless.
4. There will only be a budget surplus after all other appropriations have been budgeted. Large appropriations have been made for schools, the University of Hawaii, and previously unfunded expenses.

Smyth was thanked for his report.

**PUBLIC CONCERNS:**

**OHANA O HAWAII** - Leinati Matautai, from Ohana O Hawaii, which seeks justice for the homeless, requested to be placed on the agenda for a future meeting.

**MALFUNCTIONING CROSSWALK LIGHT** – Korybski reported a crosswalk light out at Nimitz Highway and Nuuanu Avenue. Rhoads provided Korbyski with a City telephone number to request repairs.

**REPAIRS TO 756 VACANT STATE HOUSING UNITS** – Smyth reported the State is working on making repairs, and that one limiting factor is the limited availability of contractors.

**PROLIFERATION OF NEWS PUBLICATION STANDS** – Chair Matusow noted receipt of a letter from a resident concerned about the proliferation of news publication stands in the Downtown area. She noted private landowners are working on this matter, hoping to follow the solution arrived at in Waikiki. Because of First Amendment issues, City Council will have to deal with this issue.

Chair Matusow deferred the agenda to take New Business at this time. There were no objections.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**HONOLULU TRIATHLON, SUNDAY, MAY 14, NEW ROUTE WHICH TRAVERSES DOWNTOWN** – Bill Burke reported a new route has been established for the event. In this area the route includes the bicycle race portion which starts at Ala Moana Beach Park, and proceeds along Ala Moana Boulevard and Nimitz Highway to Aloha Stadium and back. The running portion goes through the Kakaako area and ends at Magic Island. The routes that head in the westerly direction instead of the easterly direction, will impact fewer residential areas. The bicycle race portion should end around 9:30 – 10:00 a.m.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. In this area, the bicycle race will use the makai lane of Ala Moana Boulevard and Nimitz Highway, and it was noted that this area is in good condition.
2. Monitoring of spectators was suggested to keep them from getting too close to, and interfering with bicycle racers. Racers will be started in waves, with the elite riders in the first wave.
3. There is a \$20,000 first place prize.

Burke was thanked for attending the meeting.

**PRESERVE AMERICA NEIGHBORHOOD DESIGNATION FOR CHINATOWN** - Ed Korybski, Chinatown Culture and Arts District, reported he is seeking support of a Preserve America Historic District designation for the Chinatown Historic District. The designation would provide federal funding to promote the district. He is seeking the maximum amount of \$150,000 in matching funds from the Culture and Arts District. **White moved and Mollring seconded that the Board support the resolution to the City to apply for the designation of**

**Chinatown Special District as a Preserve America Community Neighborhood. The motion carried unanimously.**

**REQUEST TO NAME THE PELE STREET MINI PARK FOR CAESAR AND ELEANOR GOMES WHO OWNED THE PROPERTY BEFORE IT WAS CONDEMNED TO BUILD THE H-1** – Scott Trusdale, great grandson of Ceasar and Eleanor Gomes, provided a brief background on the Gomes' immigration to Honolulu, acquisition of the property, its condemnation by the State for development of H-1, The Gomes declining the State's offer of selling the property back to the family, and development of a park, etc. He noted his support of the renaming, and that the renaming should be in recognition of all immigrants.

**Rhoads moved and White seconded that Board supports a request for the City Council to rename the Pele Street Mini Park for Caesar and Eleanor Gomes.** Discussion followed, and Trusdale noted Caesar Gomes contributions to the community included being active in the community and assistance to other immigrants. **The motion carried, 8-1.** Au opposed.

**PROPOSED CITY BUDGET FY 2007 – 2008** – Chair Matusow reported the City budget includes the following items that affect this area: 1) \$65,000 for City Hall elevator modernization design, 2) \$1.2 million for Civic Center improvements, 3) \$5.075 million to install fire sprinkler system at municipal building, 4) \$580,000 to fix water damage at police stations and buildings, 5) \$9.95 million for crime laboratory improvements, 6) \$1.660 million to improve police stations, 7) \$500,000 for police station security camera improvements, 8) \$2.575 million to replace police vehicles, 9) \$620,000 for drainage improvements, including Punchbowl Street, 10) \$365,000 for Downtown/Chinatown parking structure lighting improvements, 11) \$13.520 million to replace buses and TheHandiVans, 12) \$500,000 for bus engines and transmissions, 13) \$400,000 for ADA bus stop improvements, 14) \$250,000 for bus stop site improvements, 15) \$50.2 million to conduct preliminary engineering and prepare a final environmental impact statement for the locally preferred mass transit alternative. Information sheets on each individual item from the budget were provided to Board members to review prior to the meeting.

Discussion followed. **Smyth moved and Rhoads seconded that the Board supports items numbered 1 – 14. The motion carried, 8-0-1.** Middleton abstained.

**Rhoads moved and Smyth seconded that the Board support item number 15. The motion carried, 7-1-1.** Matusow opposed, Middleton abstained.

**SPENDING THE BOARD'S REFRESHMENT BUDGET** – Discussion followed. **Smyth moved and Middleton seconded that the Board spend its Refreshment Budget at the May and June meetings, on drinks, chips, etc. The motion carried, 8-1.** Matusow opposed.

**FOR INFORMATION ONLY – PROPOSED TRANSIT STATIONS AND ROUTES THROUGH DOWNTOWN/CHINATOWN** – Smyth reviewed a map of this area's routes and stations from the [www.honolulutransit.org](http://www.honolulutransit.org) web site. He acknowledged the maps are difficult to read. The routes on the map are fairly fixed, the locations of the stations are initial only. There are four routes through the Downtown area:

1. Along Beretania and S. King streets, going underground between Nuuanu Stream to S. King Street, then at-grade on King Street to the University of Hawaii.
2. Along Hotel Street, going underground between Richards and Alapai streets, along Kawaiahao and Kona streets to the University of Hawaii.
3. Along Hotel Street, going underground between Richards and Kawaiahao streets, along Waimanu and Kona streets, Kapiolani Boulevard, to the University of Hawaii.
4. Along Nimitz Highway, Halekawila and Kona Streets, to the University of Hawaii.
5. Only the Beretania and King streets route does not include an extension into Waikiki.

The proposals include underground stations along Beretania and Waimanu streets.

For this project, alternatives are: no build, enhance existing bus system, additional roadways for buses, fixed guideway.

The airport could be connected to the system by a shuttle or be within walking distance.

The routes in the Ewa area are widely separated mauka and makai, by as much as five miles.

Construction would begin in the Ewa area, where the baseyard would be located.

The order of the agenda resumed.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**BOARD MEMBER ACTIONS** – Smyth briefly reviewed portions of the Draft Revised Neighborhood Plan relating to Standards of Conduct, Representative Capacity of Neighborhood Board members, and Order and Decorum.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 2, 2006 REGULAR MEETING** – Mollring moved and Smyth seconded that the minutes be approved. The motion carried, 8-0-1. Middleton abstained.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

##### **CHAIR'S REPORT:**

**STREET CLOSURES** – May 5, Cinco De Mayo Block Party, will close Nuuanu Avenue, between King and Nimitz; Merchant, between Nuuanu and Bethel; and all of Marin Lane. May 14, Honolulu Triathlon, will close makai side of Ala Moana Boulevard, Nimitz Highway, and Kamehameha Highway. May 25 and 26, Troy Barbosa Law Enforcement Torch Run, will not close, but will run along various streets in the Downtown area on May 25.

**LIQUOR LICENSES** – a) Vivian's Liquor and Grocery, 1155 River Street, General Retail, b) Best Market, 152 N. Pauahi St. Retail General, c) Don Ho's Island Grill, temporary extension of licensed premises.

**ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA** – Chair Matusow reported items for future agendas includes a) updates on the resolution to request the legislature to designate a Honolulu historic waterfront district from Nuuanu to Kewalo Basin and require the appropriate community-based master planning, b) reducing emergency vehicle siren noise, c) mass transit system update.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** – Mollring reported for the month of March the Operating Account balance was \$1116.32, the Publicity Account balance was \$1440.00, and the Refreshment Account balance was \$120.00.

**NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION** – Chair Matusow reported work on the Neighborhood Plan by the nine-member commission is delayed pending the filling of two vacancies.

**STATE AFFAIRS** – Smyth reported proposed flood relief legislation funding is now estimated at \$28 million. Some of the funding will be provided to the City for such projects as dealing with landslide problems on Round Top Drive where the land is under State jurisdiction, but the roadway is under City jurisdiction.

Today was the last day of regular legislative committee hearings. Some other committee hearings will be held, and conference committees will be held to work on bills.

**CITY AFFAIRS** – No report.

**OAHU METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION** – No report.

**WEED AND SEED** – White noted that special provisions affecting parks require them to have certain types of play apparatus. Aala Park meets these provisions, Smith-Beretania does not.



**CHINATOWN SUMMIT SPECIAL INVESTIGATION** – The meeting has been rescheduled to June 22, Hawaii Theatre. Board members Smyth, White, Yuen, Matusow will attend and represent the Board. Rhoads is the alternate.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Submitted by,

Dean Chu  
Neighborhood Assistant

Minutes are subject to approval at the next meeting.